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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary RELEASED IN FULL

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February 4, 1992

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

The South Grounds

7:10 A.M. EDT

The President: I just -- before I head to Florida I just want to say a quick word in support of democracy in Venezuela. I talked to Carlos Andres Perez this morning about 2:30, maybe a little later, and then to President Gaviria of Colombia about 30 minutes later and I assured them, both of them, that the United States supports democracy in Venezuela and elsewhere in this hemisphere and that this military coup attempt against President Carlos Andres Perez is firmly condemned by the United States. And President Perez indicated he thought things were under control but I just want -- wanted him to know how strongly we feel about support for him here -- support for democracy. He's one of the great democratic leaders in our hemisphere and to have this outrageous, illegal military coup certainly should be condemned by all countries, not just in our hemisphere. So, then I told President Gaviria of Colombia essentially the same thing. And I'm just hopeful that their reports that having the matter under control are valid. In any event, let there be no mistake, the United States condemns the abortion of democracy in this hemisphere or anyplace else. So I...

Q. Are you planning to take any action?

The President: They seem to think it is under control. I hope that is the case.

Q. Mr. President, any consideration in going with the OAS on Haiti?

The President: Little early.

END

7:12 A.M. EDT

Lot 44 D065
Box 5
P60U-Coup Attempt
1992

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